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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of : Confirmation No. 2826
Jacques DEGELAEN et al. : Docket No. 99_0318A
Serial No. 09/276,923 : Group Art Unit 1645
Filed March 26, 1999 : Examiner R. Zeman

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PROCESS FOR DETERMINING ANTIBIOTICS
CONTAINING A B-LACTAM RING IN A BIOLOGICAL FLUID

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action dated April 19, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel without prejudice claim 37.

Please amend the claims as follows:

~~116~~. (Amended) A process for detecting an antibiotic or antibiotics containing a β -lactam ring in a biological fluid, comprising the steps of:

- (a) placing a determined volume of the biological fluid in contact with an amount of recognition agent to form a mixture, and incubating the mixture under conditions which allow for the formation of a complex between an antibiotic or antibiotics, which may be present in the biological fluid, and the recognition agent,
- (b) placing the mixture obtained in step (a) in contact with at least one reference antibiotic which has been immobilized on a solid support, under conditions which allow the

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